

John & Janice Burdette



February 10, 2015

Ms. Nancy Rumrill
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Drinking Water Protection Section, Mail Code WTR-3-2
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Re: Draft Class III Underground Injection Control Area Permit
Permit Number R9UIC-AZ3-F'Y11-1
Florence Copper, Inc.

Dear Ms. Rumrill,

We are writing in strong opposition to Florence Copper Inc.'s (FCI) Florence Copper Project (FCP) in Florence, Arizona. Florence Copper Inc. is the permit applicant and their parent company is now Taseko Mines Ltd. out of British Columbia, Canada. We ask that you do not issue this permit or allow this project to proceed.

It is unbelievable that it is even being considered given:

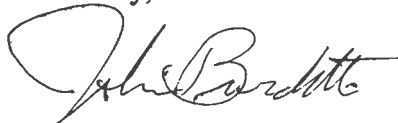
- the history of in situ mines ruining groundwater, costing millions to attempt cleanup;
- how close the FCP is to the Gila River aquifer and existing and future drinking water wells for not only Florence, but the Johnson Ranch and San Tan Valley areas northwest of Florence;
- where the FCP is located – in the middle of a growing town – on land not zoned for mining;
- the leaching ponds that will be necessary containing all manner of toxic chemicals polluting the air and land – in the middle of town;
- the massive quantities of sulphuric acid required to be transported by lots of trucks on our small two-lane roads and stored – again, all in the middle of town;
- the BHP pilot test data from testing of the area in the 1990's showing vertical migration and non-containment of the injected solution has not been considered;
- the site is pock-marked with hundreds of old test holes, old mining boreholes, geologic faults, mine shafts and other underground workings, all of which cannot possibly be found and plugged and can serve as conduits for a leached toxic solution to enter our drinking water aquifers;
- FCI claims that they will inject below our water source. But our water source is in the lower basin fill unit (LBFU), not the upper basin fill unit as they claim. The EPA permit, if approved, would allow contaminants to be discharged into the LBFU.

Logic and common sense tells us that an injected solution can and will go the path of least resistance, and it cannot all be fully contained as FCI claims. It is not just a sulphuric acid solution akin to “lemon juice” that will be injected and leaching out copper from under the ground. The leached solution will also contain many toxic chemicals of which some can and will escape into our valuable water aquifer.

Water will be priceless one day. Unlike the mine, which would use huge amounts of water but would not have to replenish the groundwater tables, residential development – which is what this area is zoned for – are required to replenish groundwater tables, thus insuring more local water supplies in the future.

FCI cannot guarantee that this mine will not harm the air, land or resources. It is an environmental danger to our area. Please do not let it happen. Thank you.

Sincerely,



John Burdette



Janice Burdette